



SAFETY NOTICE

## To Active Mining Claimants in Southwestern States

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs, and the National Mining Association are concerned about increasing numbers of abandoned mine safety hazard-related accidents occurring in the Southwestern desert states. According to Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA) approximately 29 people die each year due to accidents involving mine land features. Deaths and injuries have occurred on lands mined and then abandoned. A growing number of fatalities are occurring on private and public lands.

In the past, many abandoned mine lands were considered remote, but with population growth, urban sprawl, and increased recreation use (e.g., motorcycles and off-highway vehicles (OHV), accidents are on the rise. In addition, the death in September 2007 (Labor Day Weekend) in Chloride, AZ of a young girl and the severe injuries suffered by her sister when they rode their OHV into an open, mine shaft provides a sad and unnecessary example of what can and is happening. Personal injury lawsuits and tort claims have been filed by involved parties.

Seeing the need to quickly and effectively fix these mine shafts before accidents happen, we have partnered together and initiated the *FAST!* Campaign, Fix A Shaft Today! We cannot do it alone; we need your help. The *FAST!* Campaign seeks to partner with mine claimants, landowners, mining industry, recreational user groups, and volunteers to work together to mitigate or remediate these unsafe mine features.

You, as a mining claimant, can help! Does your mining claim have an open adit, shaft, or other hazard? If so, we strongly urge you to contact your local BLM or Forest Service office to discuss methods to close or block access to it. If you are unsure how to address the hazard, we may be able to assist you with technical advice, guidance, and other kinds of support. Addressing the mine hazards on your claim can save lives and may help you avoid potential liabilities. It is not only a good thing to do; it is the right thing to do.

For additional information check out the BLM Abandoned Mine Lands Website:  
[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Abandoned\\_Mine\\_Lands.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Abandoned_Mine_Lands.html).

You may also contact your local BLM or Forest Service office for more information. To find your local offices, you may visit [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov) and [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us).

**Remember, Stay Out and Stay Alive!**

Attachment-1